

Water Sector Homeland Security

October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2016 (FFY 2013-2016)

FFY 2015 REPORT

Objective:

Increase the security and resiliency of waste water treatment plants (WWTP's) against all hazards.

Statement of Problem/Issue:

Waste water treatment plants are part of the nation's critical infrastructure, and their ability to function is essential to public health and environmental protection, the economic viability of communities, and the general welfare. It is important for waste water utilities to be secured as well as possible against all hazards (natural and man-made) and to be as resilient as possible when adverse events affect them.

Actions to be accomplished:

1. MPCA and USEPA will support and assist the Minnesota Water and Waste Water Agency Response Network (MnWARN) in order for them to prepare for mutual assistance during natural and man-made disasters. MPCA will report annually the number of WWTP's that are signatory members of MnWARN.
2. MPCA will collaborate with USEPA and MDH on developing revisions to the state pandemic flu plan, to help ensure that WWTP critical staff and operations are appropriately identified and prioritized in the state plan.
3. MPCA will develop an on-line mechanism to disseminate security related information and bulletins to WWTP's.

FFY 2013 Report:

1. The MPCA has continued to work with the cities and MnWARN with the goal of getting all cities to become members. Currently, 326 cities are members of MnWARN.
2. The MPCA is currently updating existing information in the Agency's COOP, PANflu appendix and plans to integrate new guidance into the MPCA, Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Additionally, the MPCA has been communicating the need for Communities to start planning for this type of event via the quarterly wastewater newsletter and the annual training event.
3. The MPCA has developed a quarterly wastewater newsletter which is e-mailed to all permittees. This newsletter has a section that updates the permittees on security related information. If the timing of new information is critical an email distribution list has been developed and could be used.

FFY 2014 Report:

1. The MPCA has continued to work with the cities and MnWARN with the goal of getting all cities to become members. The June rain events in Minnesota were a positive testimony to how well MnWARN, Minnesota Department of Health, MPCA, and Minnesota Rural Water Association worked jointly to assure that cities had the assistance and equipment they needed. Currently, 359 cities are members of MnWARN.
2. MPCA continues to prepare for a PAN Flu response and other types of human disease incidents. Preparedness actions completed include:
 - Communication to municipalities the value obtained in planning for PAN Flu incidents via quarterly newsletters and training events.
 - Completed PAN Flu guidance and integrated into the Agency's Emergency Operations Plan.
 - Completed Human Disease Incident guidance and integrated into the Agency's Emergency Operations Plan.

MPCA Supplemental Note: MPCA management recognizes the need to assist Publically Owned Treatment Works (POTW) personnel during a Pandemic Flu (PanFlu) outbreak. Continued operation of wastewater treatment systems represents a top priority. The PanFlu, Job Action Sheet (JAS - attached) provides guidance to MPCA staff for assisting POTW personnel during an outbreak. Additionally, JAS contains information necessary for planning prior to an outbreak. Training continues throughout the state and processes for supplemental training are under review. The JAS is located in the MPCA - COOP, PanFlu Annex. It is our hope that identifying the need to assist POTWs, in the MPCA COOP, meets EPA's documentation requirements.

3. All four of the quarterly wastewater newsletters contained an article on responding to and/or the importance of preparedness in responding to emergencies.

FFY 2015 Report:

1. The MPCA has continued to work with the cities and MnWARN with the goal of getting all cities to become members. Currently, 367 cities are members of MnWARN.
2. Two of the quarterly wastewater newsletters contained an article on responding to and/or the importance of preparedness in responding to emergencies.
3. MPCA staff presented at 15 trainings/conferences about the need for Emergency preparedness.

Additional information:

For more information on the Water Sector Homeland Security contact:

*At MPCA: Wendy Turri, 507-206-2651, [[HYPERLINK "mailto:wendy.turri@state.mn.us"](mailto:wendy.turri@state.mn.us)],
or*

Stephen Lee, 651-757-2160, [[HYPERLINK "mailto:jane.braun@state.mn.us"](mailto:jane.braun@state.mn.us)]

At EPA Region 5: Kristen Faulhaber and Dean Maraldo, 312-353-2098, Maraldo.dean@epa.gov